

Application Serial No. 10/519,437
Reply to office action of May 19, 2009

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claims 26-41 are pending before this amendment. By the present amendment, claims 26 and 35 are amended. No new matter has been added. Because this amendment should put the application in condition for allowance and should not require any additional searching, the examiner is requested to enter the Amendment.

In the office action (page 4), the specification stands objected to because the title of the invention is not descriptive. In response, the applicant thanks the examiner for amending the title, however, the applicant has replaced the title with a new title based on the examiner's suggestion, which now recites; **-IDENTIFYING A USER'S SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE APPARATUS AND REALIZING INFORMATION ASSOCIATED WITH THE USER'S SEMICONDUCTOR STORAGE APPARATUS-**

Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

In the office action (page 5), claims 35-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, ¶2, as being indefinite for failing to claim the invention.

The applicant has amended the wording "controlling the information indication module to indicating the information based on the obtained indication information" to be "controlling the information indication module to indicate the obtained indication information" in claim 35. The applicant believes that this amendment should address the rejections of claims 35-41 under 35 U.S.C. §112, and withdrawal of the rejection of claims is respectfully requested.

In the office action (page 5), claims 26-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.

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§103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,606,707 (Hirota et al) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,282,611 (Hamamoto et al).

The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPO 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Willson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Independent claim 26 of the present application, as amended, is directed to a semiconductor storage apparatus for realizing information indication, comprising:

a self-contained rechargeable power source module configured to provide power to the semiconductor apparatus independently;

a controller module comprising a firmware,

a semiconductor storage medium module having an indication information storage region for storing indication information, the indication information including at least one of information regarding operating status of the semiconductor storage apparatus, identification of user associated with the semiconductor storage apparatus, and available storage capacity of the storage medium module; and

an information indication module electrically connected with the controller module and configured to prompt the indication information;

wherein the control module is configured to receive power from the power source module and read, through said firmware, the indication information from the storage medium module so as to present the read information to the information indication

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module.

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Hirota et al. discloses a PC 102 for downloading digital contents like music contents from network to the semiconductor memory card, and a portable play apparatus 201 for playing the downloaded digital contents after the semiconductor memory card is testified by the portable play apparatus. The PC 102 comprises a display 103m and the play apparatus 201 comprises a flash memory 109 and a display 203.

In the OA, the examiner alleges that the power source VDD as shown in FIG. 5 of Hirota et al. is equivalent to the self-contained rechargeable power source module as claimed in claim 26 of the present application, and flash memory 109 of Hirota et al is equivalent to the semiconductor storage medium module as claimed in claim 1, and display 103 and 203 (and speaker 106) of Hirota et al. are equivalent to the information indication module as claimed in claim 1 of the present application, respectively. The applicant respectfully disagrees.

According to Hirota et al., VDD as shown in FIG 5 is just a connection terminal for getting power from the other elements. Far and away, all of electrical equipments have connection terminals for getting power supply from a power source arranged in itself or outside, but it does not mean each electrical equipment has a self-contained rechargeable power source module as claimed in claim 26 of the application.

In addition, though flash memory 109 of Hirota et al may be really used to store the music downloaded from a PC, Hirota et al. at least fails to disclose that the flash memory 109 has a specific storage region for storing special information regarding its operating status, identification of user, and available storage capacity, as claimed in the

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currently amended claim 26. Accordingly, even though the display 103 and 106 in the PC 102 and the display 203 in the portable play apparatus 201 could be used to display some information, neither the display 103 and 106 nor the display 203 would indicate the operating status, user identification or its available storage capacity of the flash memory 109 /play apparatus 201, as claimed in the currently amended claim 1 of the present application.

Moreover, the examiner also alleges that the command control unit 322 in the flash memory 109 of Hirota et al. is equivalent to the controller module of claim 1 of the application. However, even if we assume according to the examiner's opinions, *arguendo*, that the flash memory 109 and display 103 and 203 of Hirota et al. are equivalent to the semiconductor storage medium module and the information indication module as claimed in claim 1, respectively, Hirota et al. fails to disclose that the command control unit 322 could read, through said firmware, the indication information indicating the semiconductor storage apparatus' operating status, user identification and its available storage capacity from flash memory 109 so as to present the read information to the display 103 and 106 or the display 203.

In view of the above, Hirota et al. at least fails to disclose the following limitations of claim 1:

"a self-contained rechargeable power source module configured to provide power to the semiconductor storage apparatus independently";
"a semiconductor storage medium module having an indication information storage region for storing indication information, the indication information including at least one of information regarding operating status of the semiconductor storage apparatus,

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identification of user associated with the semiconductor storage apparatus, and
available storage capacity of the storage medium module";
"an information indication module electrically connected with the controller
module and configured to prompt the indication information"; and
"the control module is configured to receive power from the power source module
and read, through said firmware, the indication information from the storage medium
module so as to present the read information to the information indication module".

Hamamoto et al discloses a memory card that includes a rechargeable battery as
a power source. However, *Hamamoto et al* does not cure the deficiency of *Hirota et al*.
Therefore, claim 26, as amended, is not obvious over *Hirota et al* in view of *Hamamoto
et al* because both *Hirota et al* and *Hamamoto et al* fail to teach or suggest each
claimed limitations of claim 26. Accordingly, claims 27-34 are patentable over *Hirota et
al* in view of *Hamamoto et al* because they depend from claim 26 and recite additional
patentable subject matter of claim 26. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 26-34 under
35 U.S.C. § 103 is respectfully requested.

In the office action (page 8), claims 35-41 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.
§102(e) as being anticipated by *Hirota*.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is
found, either expressly or inherently described in a single prior art reference. *Verdegaal
Bros. v. Union Oil Co. Of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir.
1987). There must be no difference between the claimed invention and the reference
disclosure, as viewed by a person of ordinary skill in the field of the invention. *Scripps*

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Clinic Research & Foundation v. Genentech Inc., 18 USPQ2d 1001, 1010 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Independent Claim 35 of the present application, as amended, is directed to a method for realizing information indication in a semiconductor storage apparatus comprising a power source module providing power to the semiconductor storage apparatus; a controller module having a firmware for realizing the information indication and data access; an interface module; a semiconductor storage medium module having a indication information storage region for storing indication information; and an information indication module, wherein the controller module, the interface module, the semiconductor storage medium module, and the information indication module are electrically connected to each other, the method comprising:

verifying a password of the indication information storage region according to a predetermined setting, and based on the verifying, obtaining a necessary indication information from the indication information storage region, wherein the necessary indication information including at least one of information regarding operating status of the semiconductor storage apparatus, identification of user associated with the semiconductor storage apparatus, and available storage capacity of the storage medium module; and

controlling the information indication module to indicate the obtained indication information.

As discussed earlier, *Hirota et al* does not teach or suggest the steps of: "obtaining a necessary indication information from the indication information storage region, wherein the necessary indication information including at least one of

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information regarding operating status of the semiconductor storage apparatus, identification of user associated with the semiconductor storage apparatus, and available storage capacity of the storage medium module"; and "controlling the information indication module to indicate the obtained indication information" in claims 35, as amended. Therefore, claim 35 is not anticipated by *Hirota et al.*

Accordingly, claims 36-41 are not anticipated by *Hirota et al*, too, because they depend from claim 35 and recite all the limitations of claim 35. Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 35-41 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 is respectfully requested.

For the reasons set forth above, the applicants respectfully submit that claims 26-41 now pending in this application, are in condition for allowance over the cited references. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and earnestly solicit an indication of allowable subject matter.

This amendment is considered to be responsive to all points raised in the office action. Should the examiner have any remaining questions or concerns, the examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney by telephone to expeditiously resolve such concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

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